

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 10-12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,283,490 to Nolte et al. (Nolte). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 is canceled, and the features of claim 2 are incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that a casing includes at least one air inlet grid and at least one air outlet grid, both of which are made integrally with the casing, and that the casing is made as a casting.

As described at page 12, line 20-page 13, line 36 of the specification and shown in Fig. 1, for example, the casing 2 includes an air inlet grid (e.g. grid formed by perforations 43 provided by a perforated transverse wall 14) and an air outlet grid (e.g., grid formed by protective bars 22 in openings 21). As described at page 12, lines 34-36 and page 13, lines 16-17, the bearing 15 (and thus the perforated transverse wall 14) and the protective bars 22 are integrally made with the casing 2 by casting.

The Office Action alleges that first and second end brackets 10, 11 of Nolte are formed integrally with a frame 9. However, as described at col. 4, lines 28-31 of Nolte, the end brackets 10 and 11 are secured to the main frame 9 by bolt units 8 including through bolts 19, 20, 21 and 22. Accordingly, Nolte does not teach or suggest that a casing including at least one air inlet grid and at least one air outlet grid, both of which are made integrally understood as monolithically, with the casing, is made as a casting, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinct from the applied art.

Claims 10-12 and 15 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP Patent No. 56049648 A to Kayane. This rejection is moot as claim 1 is amended to recite the features of canceled claim 2, which is not rejected under this rejection. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,908,538 to Geberth, Jr. et al. (Geberth). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Geberth does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte with respect to claim 1. As such, claim 3 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,730,642 to Barnstead et al. (Barnstead). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Barnstead disclosing, in Fig. 1, an end 26 fastened to housing 12 with screws 30, 32 does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. Further, there is no showing of a grid in the end wall. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte and Barnstead, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,272 to Gobled. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gobled does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte and Barnstead with respect to claim 4. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,182,482 to Burke. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Burke does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. As such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 9286086 to Behrend. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Behrend does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,137 to Engelbert. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Engelbert does not overcome the deficiencies of Nolte with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable at least for its dependence on allowable claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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WPB:RAM/tls

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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